THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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DNR Reports . . . by Glenn Therres

Partners in Flight is an international effort for the conservation of migratory landbirds in the Americas. The effort started in 1990 as a national effort and over time expanded at various scales to state, regional, and international efforts. Partners in Flight came to Maryland in 1993 with the formation of a state working group, which included partners from federal, state, and local government agencies, conservation organizations (including MOS), academia, and others. For the first five years of its existence, the group was extremely active and making progress. Maryland Partners in Flight even won a national award for an educational program it developed. Unfortunately, our efforts fizzled out in 1999 and Partners in Flight efforts in Maryland have been inactive ever since then.

Though Maryland has been inactive in recent years, Partners in Flight is alive and well. In late January, the Northeast regional working group met here in our state at the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art in Salisbury to discuss business. DNR co-hosted the meeting, with a few of our staff attending the two-day event. Representatives from about half the state working groups in the northeastern U.S. were there, as well as representatives of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Department of Defense, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Audubon Society, and others. The theme of the meeting was implementation of bird conservation plans.

For the last several years, bird conservation plans have been developed for the 58 physiographic areas in the United States. Version 1 for most of these plans have been written. Three physiographic area plans cover Maryland. An important component of the plans is the identification of priority species. These species are used to identify habitat types most in need of conservation actions. Biological objectives were developed for priority species population levels and acreage of habitat needed to support these populations. These plans do not (for the most part) identify where on the ground these populations and habitats need to be conserved.

The next phase in the Partners in Flight efforts is to identify where and by whom conservation of these priority species and habitats should be implemented. We are planning for DNR to get back in the Partners in Flight arena and identify what roles we can play in implementing landbird conservation in Maryland. DNR lands can play a major part in providing habitat for these birds.

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2002 Annual MOS Conference

by Mike Callahan

The 2002 Annual MOS Conference will be held June 7–9, 2002 in Western Maryland at WISP in Deep Creek/McHenry. The Allegany Chapter and the At-Large MOS members of Garrett County are anxious to welcome you to Western Maryland. Our keynote speaker will be field guide artist and author David Sibley.

The Breeding Bird Atlas Team will be on hand and with the breeding in full force, any data collected on trips can be used for the atlas. While on one of the many exciting field trips you will have the opportunity to see birds that breed nowhere else in Maryland, including Winter Wren, Northern Goshawk, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Northern Saw-whet Owl, and Golden-winged Warbler. We have planned Warbler and Sparrow Bird Identification Workshops to help you hone your skills.

Rooms are available at Wisp at a conference price. You're responsible for making your own room reservations. We have reserved a block of 100 rooms and they are expected to go fast, so don't wait.

Room rates (per room/per night):

Single	$89	Double	$91
Triple	$95	Quadruple	$99

Please call Wisp at 1-800-462-9477. You must tell Wisp that you are attending the MOS conference to get the MOS rate. To receive this special rate, make reservations by May 1st.

Conference registration costs:

Registration, six meals: $139/person
Registration, two dinners: $83/person
Registration only: $37/person
All registrations include Wine & Cheese Social and conference pin.

Questions? Contact Conference Chairman Mike Callahan at 301-490-9318 or at raptorsrule@juno.com or Local Conference Coordinator, Fran Pope 301-334-4908 fpope@mail.gcnet.net.

If you have items to donate to the Silent Auction, please contact Janelle Dietrich at 301-249-7155. Raffle tickets will be sold throughout the weekend and will be coordinated by Barbara Gaffney. Contact her at 301-895-4646 if you wish to contribute items to the raffle. Funds raised from these two events will benefit a local conservation organization.

Chapter Chatter

by Martha Waugh

Talbot Chapter Mourns Erica Woodman — Wayne Bell, of the Talbot Chapter, reports the passing of Erica Woodman on January 22: "She is remembered as 'the backbone of the Talbot Bird Club' during its early years. She served as president from 1972 to 1974. At least two Chapter traditions trace their origins to her: a ham dinner with all the trimmings at the St. Michaels Christmas Bird Count tally, and the prize of a jar of home-made jelly (orange marmalade is how it began with her) for the person who most closely guessed the number of species seen on our Sunday morning walks. People like Erica Woodman are precious gifts. Each time we enjoy their legacy we honor their memory and pass both on to future generations of Eastern Shore birders."

Baltimore Bird Club Member Reaches Her 100th — Erana Lubbert celebrated her 100th birthday on September 16, 2001. Erana lobbied hard in the 1950s to have Cylburn declared a park and to have it used as a center for the study of birds. She introduced many people to birdwatching and bird identification by sight and song. She demonstrated bird-banding and fostered BBC's early collections of salvaged birds that would later become their museum. She hosted many social occasions and meetings for the club. At the 50th anniversary of MOS, Erana provided many items from her collection of memorabilia, including club

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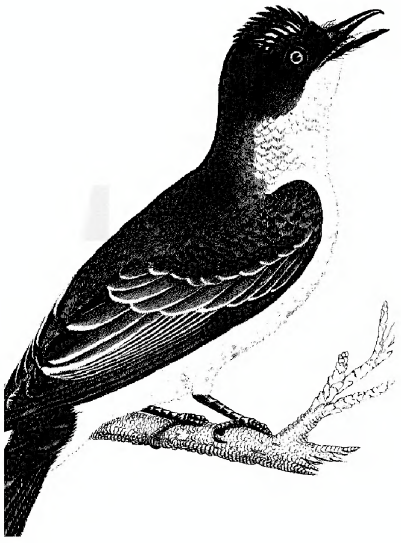

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For information on advertising rates and deadlines, contact the editor.

Copy deadlines for the May/June issue are:

May-August Calendar Activities:
March 25

All Other Submissions:
April 1

Something For You to Think About

by Karen Morley

On December 8, 2001, the MOS Board of Directors recommended that MOS raise its dues beginning with the September 2002 membership year. The proposal is set out on page 7. Although a dues change technically is a change to the MOS Manual of Operations (which generally can be changed by a vote of the Board of Directors), under the MOS Bylaws a dues change must be approved by a two-thirds vote at the next membership meeting....which will be in June at Wisp. In the last ***Yellowthroat*** (The Cost of Keeping Up) I set out the reasons why we need to raise our dues....basically to cover our operating expenses without endangering our endowed activities.

Today I'd like to talk to you a little on why MOS is important and why you should want to pay dues and be a member of MOS...or any bird club for that matter. One can certainly be an active birder as an individual. But being part of a club isn't just social or getting to go on birding trips with more experienced birders....although those are pretty good reasons in themselves! (I can certainly attest to the excellent social and culinary skills of MOS members based on the annual meetings and picnics I have been privileged to attend in the last couple of years.) Being part of a bird club means you are committed to more than just "looking for and at birds. You are committed to the goals of that organization - conservation, education, research, data collection and scientific publication, and habitat protection. As a member of MOS you have an impact on all those things on a state-wide level - as well on your county or regional level. You are part owner of the MOS sanctuaries, you provide scholarships to teachers to expand their educational backgrounds, you are involved with youth groups and schools, and you are instrumental in doing real scientific research, for example, seasonal counts and the Atlas. And this is important: you have lobbyists for birding and conservation views with the Maryland legislature - you may not realize this, but MOS is highly respected by State legislators and the DNR as a responsible, reasonable voice for such issues.

MOS provides birders in Maryland with a lot of services....and we want to continue to do so at the level you expect and deserve. We may not be a big organization like Audubon or the ABA, and we don't want to be, but we are a valuable resource to Maryland...and plan to continue to be so. Our local chapters are the backbone of our organization, but there are statewide concerns that have to be recognized and effectively responded to....and there is where MOS supplements each local club's efforts, and hopefully provides leadership and a broad vision for the future.

There is one other change to the Bylaws that will need to be voted on at the June membership meeting. For years our Bylaws have required that all checks of the Society over $3,000 be signed by two Executive Council members. Generally, this means that the Treasurer and the President or Vice President have to sign all large checks. Today, many of our checks are for amounts in excess of $3,000 and this requirement is unwieldy and a hindrance to efficient fiscal operations. Currently, the President, Vice President and Treasurer live in Central Maryland, but it is not unreasonable to anticipate that the officers could be spread out from Cumberland to Easton.

There are probably two reasons for this requirement. First, a concern for embezzlement; and second, a concern that a check might be written against a bill that, for whatever reason, shouldn't be paid and the treasurer might not know that the bill should not be paid. The first concern, embezzlement, is not being addressed as the bank does not enforce the two signature requirement. If the treasurer wanted to embezzle money, a Bylaw is not going to slow him/her down. And what is the penalty for violating the Bylaw? If someone got caught, is the Prosecutor going to add "violating the Bylaws" to the indictment? To more effectively address this concern, we are getting quotes from our insurance provider to cover malfeasance by officers and employees. If the concern is that a party might present the Treasurer with a bill that should not be paid, then getting a second opinion is certainly a good idea. But with today's communications, actually having to get a second signature may not be necessary. There might well be other options such as e-mail approval to pay. While we discuss this further, the Board recommends taking the trigger amount out of the Bylaws and putting it in the Manual of Operations, and raising the trigger amount to $10,000. We are also proposing changing the Bylaws to make it clear that checks for expenses approved by the Board of Directors under the trigger amount, as well as checks drawn as internal transfers of funds between MOS accounts, do not need to be signed by more than one officer.

Both of these issues will be presented to you in June at the MOS Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors has worked long and hard to recommend these items for your consideration—think carefully about how you plan to vote.

DNR Reports . . .

(continued form page 1, column 1)

Partners in Flight has joined forces with other bird conservation efforts under the auspices of the North American Bird Conservation Initiate, which is an effort to coordinate all bird species conservation on the continent. NABCI brings together folks from Partners in Flight, North America Waterfowl Management Plan, U.S. Shorebird Plan, North American Colonial Waterbird Plan, and upland gamebird interests to work on all-bird conservation efforts. The idea is to combine efforts and resources on mutually beneficial projects. This initiative is fairly new and just starting to make progress, but it has tremendous potential.

DNR is involved in the conservation of all these bird interests and has been active, to some degree or other, in all these planning efforts. We have been very active in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan implementation efforts and hope to be as active in the others, especially through the NABCI process. What roles we will play is still to be determined.

Yet Another Call for Help
by Karen Morley

Sometime this summer Larry Fry has decided to pass the baton of Executive Secretary on to another member of MOS. The Executive Secretary is one of the busiest positions on the MOS Board of Directors. The Board has realized the demands of this office and pays an annual stipend of $2,400 to the incumbent, as well as providing them with a generous budget for mailing, reproduction, and other activities. We need a member who is willing to take on this at times demanding and important role for MOS.

A person who takes on the job must be mobile (able to attend meetings at various locations around the State and able to monitor and handle the MOS storage facility in Howard County, e.g.), Internet aware with e-mail capability, able to move moderately heavy materials to and from the MOS storage facility, and highly organized. They need to have the time to carry out the functions of the position, as well.

Here is the formal list of duties for the position from the MOS Manual of Operations:

- To have copies of the minutes prepared and distributed to the Board of Directors for all Board of Directors and Executive Council meetings as provided by the Secretary.
- To reproduce and distribute memoranda and other written communications when requested by the President or the Secretary.
- To mail renewal notices and provide other membership services for "at-large" members of the Society.
- To ensure that the local Chapters are provided membership cards and other forms and provisions provided by the Society.
- To refer voice-mail received on the Society's 800 number to the appropriate officer or committee chairperson, or to directly respond to inquiries seeking assistance and information of the Society.
- To refer correspondence addressed to the Society to the appropriate officer or committee chairperson, or to directly respond to inquiries seeking assistance and information of the Society. The Executive Secretary is responsible for arranging that mail be picked up from the Society office at Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21209.
- To perform such other administrative duties that may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors from time to time.

The Executive Secretary is a contractual employee who works at the pleasure of the President and the Board of Directors until employment is terminated by either party, following at least one month's notice. The office of the Executive Secretary should be separate and distinct from that of the Secretary, as the Executive Secretary is a non-voting member of the Board of Directors, but is responsible for the operation and management of the Society's office. At the time of employment, the Executive Secretary shall be given a job description including the foregoing duties.

Are you interested in this highly visible job within the MOS state organization. Please contact me to chat about it at 410-235-4001 (evenings) or by e-mail at kdmorley@yahoo.com.

CHAPTER CHATTER

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pictures now in the archives at Cylburn. She served as membership/financial secretary for about a dozen years at a time when the BBC had nearly 1,000 members – without the aid of a computer. She included on her life list Bachman's Warbler and Sutton's Warbler.

Tri-County Member Speaks about Rachel Carson — Tri-County member John Juriga, an authority on Rachel Carson, is guest speaker at the annual Rachel Carson Homestead Association fund-raiser to be held this March in Pittsburgh, PA. He will display the original Howard Frech drawings which illustrated the 1941 Simon and Schuster edition of "Under the Sea-wind," Carson's first book, drawings now in the possession of The Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art in Salisbury, MD. John is a pediatrician who has had a deep interest in Rachel Carson since his youth in Western Pennsylvania where she was a hometown heroine. In college he wrote about her in an article published in "Game News." He was involved in the initial organizing meeting of the Rachel Carson Homestead, but finishing his education put him on the sidelines of that effort. He's back now in full swing and has a number of related projects ongoing.

Caroline Chapter Begins a Community Project and Thanks the Ridgely Sewage Plant Staff — Caroline members Steve Westre and Mike Price have spearheaded a project to provide bird feeders to the Caroline Nursing Home in Denton. The Chapter has begun with a donation of five homemade feeders for the enjoyment of residents of the nursing home. The Caroline Chapter also wishes to express its gratitude to the Town of Ridgely sewage treatment plant staff for their helpfulness in allowing birders access on weekends for spring, fall, and Christmas bird counts. Many MOS members know that this area has produced some very good birds over the years.

Anne Arundel Bird Club Presents Annual Wildlife Lecture — The Anne Arundel Chapter presents the Richard E. Heise, Jr. Annual Wildlife Lecture at the Quiet Water Park, Annapolis on Thursday, April 5 at 8:00 p.m. in the Blue Heron Room. For directions call Doug Forwell at 410-626-8486 or the Park Office at 410-222-1777. A $5.00 donation to benefit the MOS Scholarship and Sanctuary Funds is requested. "Bird Feeding Facts and Fallacies" is the topic of the lecture by Dr. Aelred Geis, a retired biologist for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Dr. Geis has conducted significant research in the science of feeding and attracting wild birds. His conclusions on the superiority of black oil sunflower has influenced many who enjoy attracting birds to backyard feeders. Dr. Geis will also discuss how to attract insectivorous birds such as swallows, warblers, and even humming birds by assuring live insects as feed.

Another Big Sit Team — The Baltimore Bird Club's "Star-spangled Birders of the Fort McHenry Wetland Big Sit Team" tallied 860 birds of 55 species in 16 hours on Sunday, October 21, all from inside a 17 foot circle. They were able to add Sora and Eastern Meadowlark to the fort's list of 177 species. Jim Peters, Keith Costley, and Wendy Taparauskas were true big sitters, cheered on by visits from Gail Frantz, Karen Lippy, and Dot Gustafson during the day. The extremely cooperative National Park Service staff allowed the sitters to experiment with a night-vision monocular scope. Jim Peters says it is a "definite must for future Big Sits or night birding." Some interesting birds in the 55 species were both Night-Herons, Merlin, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush, both Kinglets, Palm Warbler (Eastern and Western), Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Eastern Towhee, Junco, Savannah, Field, White-crowned, White-throated, Swamp, and Song Sparrows. Jim adds, "Don't underestimate City birding! Come join the Star-spangled Birders next year."

Harford Announces Its 2001 Winners — Carol Flora, Chapter president, announced the winners of the Harford Chapter's Annual Awards for 2001. The **Bird of the Year Award** went to a Roughed-legged Hawk sighted on Baltimore Gas & Electric Co. property at the Perryman Power Plant. The award was accepted by a representative from BG&E, Mr. John Strawbridge. **Volunteers of the year** went to 1) Lorna Wortman, who, in addition to her continuing support of all chapter activities, also provides homemade soup and bread at the Christmas Count tally; to 2) Rick Cheicante, for his dedication and hard work in producing the Chapter newsletter; and to 3) Mr. and Mrs. John Ireland, owners of Wildbird Marketplace, for their continuing support of Club activities and donations of items for Chapter raffles. **Birder of the Year** awards went to Hammond and Thurza Brandt, members of the Club since 1961, who always share interesting stories about "their" birds at the Chapter's dinner meetings. Dana Burrough was proclaimed **Rookie of the Year** for her contagious exuberance and excitement about birds.

Please Feed the Atlas

by Janet Millenson

Help! The Maryland Atlas Project needs your financial assistance NOW. Money is running low. Although we're in the process of seeking funding from a variety of public and private sources, the paperwork and review cycles take time. In the near term, **your donations are urgently needed to keep the Maryland Atlas Project alive.**

The purpose of the Maryland Atlas Project is to map the distribution of all bird species that breed in Maryland and D.C., updating information last collected 20 years ago. Atlas data will be a vital resource for anyone concerned with Maryland's changing environment.

The money in the MOS Atlas Fund was used to pay start-up expenses such as printing the handbooks and field cards, buying several sets of the necessary USGS topo maps, and preparing other training materials. Yet that's only the beginning. The budget also calls for money for a computer, for postage and phone calls, and to pay the expenses of "block-busters" who travel to remote areas that would otherwise be left uncovered. The biggest budget item of all is the wages of the newly hired State Atlas Coordinator, who'll be putting in an intense and dedicated effort for the next seven years. The total outlay for the Maryland Atlas Project (M.A.P.) through 2008 adds up to nearly half a million dollars.

Let's not waste the hard work of so many volunteers by letting the project starve for funds. **Send your tax-deductible donation** to MOS Treasurer Shiras Guion, 8007 Martown Road, Laurel, MD 20723 (make checks out to "MOS M.A.P."). Donor names will appear on the project website as well as in the published Atlas, but you may give anonymously if you prefer. You can also pledge an annual donation and we'll be happy to send you a reminder. Any amount is welcome — but if every MOS member contributes at least $25 a year it would get us halfway to our goal.

Here are other ways individuals and chapters can help:

- **Make a Chapter grant.** The Howard County Bird Club has offered to match gifts from other chapters, up to a total of $1,000 a year for the next five years. Our thanks go to Howard County and to every MOS chapter inspired by their generosity!

- **Buy Atlas-logo shirts and other goodies.** A selection of useful and attractive items imprinted with the beautiful M.A.P. logo will be available at the Annual Conference in June. In future issues of *The Yellowthroat* we'll tell you about other opportunities to purchase Atlas merchandise and show your support.

- **Lead us to big donors.** If you know a potential underwriter for the M.A.P., please e-mail or phone Janet Millenson (janet@twocrows.com or 301-983-9337) with the name of the appropriate person to contact at that organization.

We should all take pride in the Maryland Atlas Project. One of the best things about birding is that even amateurs can make a real contribution to science. It's a thrill to know that our field observations, properly documented, will help build an important database for researchers and planners. If you'd like to participate as a field volunteer during the five years of data collection, contact your County Coordinator (listed in the January/February 2002 issue of *The Yellowthroat* and online at www.mdbirds.org/atlas.html).

Your birding skills — and your dollars — are essential to the success of the Atlas. Thank you for making it possible.

Here's my gift to support the Maryland Atlas Project!

Amount enclosed: $_____ ☐ Bill me this amount annually for ___ more years

Name(s)_____

Address_____

_____

Phone _____ **E-mail**_____

☐ List me as "Anonymous" on the website ☐ List me as "Anonymous" in the published Atlas

Make check payable to: *MOS M.A.P.*

Mail to: *Shiras Guion, MOS Treasurer, 8007 Martown Road, Laurel, MD 20723*

Atlas Coordinator Hired !

Karen Morley has informed us that the MOS has signed a contract with Walter Ellison for the position of MOS's Atlas Coordinator. He and his wife, Nancy Martin, and their son Ian, are in the process of moving from New York State to the wilds of Chestertown. We should hear a lot more about Walter in the next issue of the ***Yellowthroat***. Until then, drop him an e-mail and introduce yourselves at wgellison@earthlink.net.

Correction to My Statement Concerning Contributions of MD DNR to the Previous Atlas

At the 10 March 2001 MOS Board Meeting, I stated that contributions for the last Atlas by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) were in kind support. This statement is not correct. I apologize for my error.

All told, DNR expended over $150,000 in support of the Atlas. Of this amount, over $84,000 went toward the State Coordinator's salary. The rest of the amount was in kind support - salaried time of DNR employees working on the Atlas and computer time.

Jane H. Coskren

Maryland Legislative News
by Maureen F. Harvey

The Conservation Connection

Several bills of concern to birders will be or have been introduced during this year's Maryland legislative session. President Karen Morley testified before the House Environmental Affairs Committee regarding House Bill 9 on January 23rd. HB-9 would extend the deer firearms season from 14 to 21 days, including up to 2 or 3 Sundays, for the purpose of mitigation of deer overpopulation. Bird habitat degradation caused by deer overbrowsing is a problem of concern to the MOS. However, the most degraded areas are those located in heavily populated urban settings where hunting is prohibited. The Conservation Committee did not believe that extension of the firearms season as proposed would provide sufficient deer population reduction in problem areas to justify a Sunday hunt. Further, we did not feel that wildlife management should be legislated; we have a Department of Natural Resources for this purpose. The text of Karen's testimony appears below:

Statement of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc. on House Bill 9, Deer Management Plans – Increased Harvest
January 23, 2002

Good afternoon, my name is Karen Morley, and I am President of the Maryland Ornithological Society. The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) was founded in 1945 as a nonprofit, statewide organization of people who are interested in birds and nature. Incorporated in 1946, the MOS promotes the study, enjoyment, appreciation, and conservation of birds and their habitats. MOS currently has 15 chapters spread across the state. Our members represent nearly every social and economic group in the state, from students to executives, from families and farmers to internationally recognized ornithologists and ecologists. Maryland Birdlife, the quarterly journal of the MOS, is a scholarly publication covering the status of birds and their habitat in Maryland. The MOS sponsors a research grant program aimed at supporting studies of birds and bird habitats in and around Maryland. An active scholarship program offers educators and others who work with young people the opportunity to attend programs in ornithology and ecology. MOS is active in conservation efforts at the national, state and local levels. We have been active partners for over 9 years in the Maryland Teaming With Wildlife Coalition and have taken a lead role in attempts to get on-going permanent funding for non-game wildlife. We have testified often before the State Legislature on many statewide issues of concern, as I am today, and will continue to do so.

First, I would like to emphasize that the MOS is NOT opposed to hunting, in fact we have many members who hunt and who belong to hunting organizations. Nor do we dispute the need to reduce deer populations in the state, which are adversely impacting habitat for birds and other wildlife. In fact MOS is considering opening one of our private sanctuaries to deer hunting to prevent further degradation of the habitat. However, the Maryland Ornithological Society is generally OPPOSED to Sunday hunting of deer or any other game species for the following reasons:

- We are concerned with equal and fair access to public lands and safety. Maryland has a long tradition of not allowing hunting on Sundays. The majority of citizens don't hunt. They wish to walk, hike, go birding, cycle, run, ride horses, or simply enjoy Maryland's abundant natural resources on one day of the week at least without fear for themselves, their families, or the wildlife they encounter. Sunday is the only certain day of the week throughout a good part of the year that can be spent outdoors without encountering hunters. Rightly or wrongly, most of us feel unsafe when sharing the woods with hunters carrying firearms. And if we have learned anything in recent months, it is that perceived risk can significantly alter people's behavior.
- Non-consumptive outdoor recreational activities such as birding, nature study, and hiking, are quiet and unobtrusive and inherently incompatible with simultaneous hunting of forest game birds and mammals in the same location. Birdwatchers especially must be quiet, inconspicuous, and somewhat stealthy, and as such, the issue of safety becomes a real one.
- The non-hunting public far outnumbers the hunting public. Economic impact studies by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicate that other wildlife-related activities bring far more money into Maryland's economy than hunters do. The most recent data, from 1996, indicate that hunting of all types, including waterfowl and upland game birds, contributed about $80 million to the economy of Maryland, while in the same time-period, wildlife-watching contributed over $500 million. In the intervening years, bird-watching has been the most rapidly-growing outdoor activity in the nation, according to the USFWS, so we could expect the agency's figures for 2001 (now being compiled) to show a similar pattern. The economic benefits that might accrue from hunting on Sundays for a very limited sector of the population are outweighed by the greater benefits to all sectors from non-consumptive tourism, outdoor recreation, and nature-related activities on the Sundays proposed for deer hunting.
- Extending the firearms season and allowing hunting on Sunday may adversely impact the Christmas Bird Counts, supported by local, state and federal wildlife agencies, as well as the National Audubon Society, the American Birding Association and MOS. These counts, which occur during the period from mid-December to early January, have been in existence for over a century, and provide invaluable long-term data on bird population trends for wildlife managers and scientists. Many Maryland counts have already been moved from weekdays to Sunday to avoid conflicts with hunters, and any further constraints could compromise the data base and may well force cancellation of counts.

The MOS recognizes that hunters are our allies in the battle to preserve and protect critical habitat in Maryland and regret that this bill puts us at odds. However, we believe that it is neither desirable nor necessary to constrain Maryland's Department of Natural Resources by mandating deer management policies via legislation. The Maryland Ornithological Society is not unmindful of the serious damage to forest ecosystems, especially ecological damage to birds and bird habitat being caused by an overpopulation of deer in certain areas of our state. MOS is willing to look open-mindedly at any effective, proven solutions to the problems caused by the overpopulation of deer. This might include the expansion of deer season dates and bag limits, and even, perhaps, the notion of allowing certain limited hunting on Sunday if it can be shown to be a proven method to reduce deer overpopulation.

However, MOS is not inclined to support HB-9 in its present form. MOS does remain

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Conservation Connection

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willing to discuss any legislative proposal that would directly address methods to control overpopulation of deer in certain areas of the state if such legislation were specifically written to be for a trial period, with strengthened reporting requirements, and a sunset provision which would terminate the Act unless reauthorized by the legislature after being proven to be needed in the future.

Rest assured that I will forward MOS's testimony to the members of our organization, proving that while we may not always agree on some issues, it is best to build relationships instead of enemies while in disagreement. Once again, the MSA looks forward to working with MOS once we clear this hurdle.

Sincerely,
Tim Lambert, President
Maryland Sportsmen's Association

We have received the following letter to the membership in response to Karen Morley's testimony on HB-9:

Dear MOS Members:

The Maryland Sportsmen's Association appreciates the position that the MOS has taken on HB-9. While it's not the position we would like to see, we certainly can appreciate the honesty expressed in your testimony. Many organizations have resorted to scare tactics and the degrading of sportsmen's image. Sunday hunting is only one issue that many organizations will face in the future. It has never been our policy or intent to divide consumptive and non-consumptive user groups. We are looking for equal treatment when it comes to enjoying our recreational activity on the weekends. We hope that the majority of future issues will have MOS and the MSA working together to benefit wildlife in Maryland.

New Savage River Wildlands Proposed - Maryland's ancient forests were almost completely eliminated by logging in the early 1900s. However, a few scattered stands of old growth forest remain. Two areas totaling about 4,000 acres, located in the Savage River State Forest in Western Maryland, are being proposed for wildlands designation to ensure preservation and protection from logging. Wildlands remain available for hunting, fishing, hiking, and birding.

New Ideology for Forest and Park Management - Legislation will be introduced to change the primary goal of State forest management to one that protects public forests to provide clean air, clean water, and wildlife habitat. A public opinion survey of Maryland voters conducted last year revealed that over 80% of voters from all over the State believe public forests should be protected, not logged, compared to only 4% who felt logging was important. However, thousands of tax dollars were spent last year to acquire land that will be used primarily for timber harvesting.

Leghold Trap Ban - House Bill 377 would ban the use of steel-jawed leghold traps in Maryland for humane reasons. However, we are concerned that the language of this bill may not be clear enough and that it could inadvertently restrict or ban legitimate scientific and wildlife management activities, including trapping of birds and other animals for the purposes of banding, marking or relocation, the removal of damaging non-indigenous species such as nutria, or necessary predator removal associated with protection of endangered species, including Piping Plovers. Bird banding or trapping for research purposes and activities regarding endangered species are federally regulated, carefully monitored, and should not be restricted in Maryland by a poorly-worded law. The Conservation Committee will study and discuss this bill before issuing an opinion.

To contact your Maryland Delegates and Senators to let them know how you stand on these bills, call the General Assembly switchboard and ask for your representative by name. From Annapolis or Baltimore: 410-946-5000. From DC Metro region: 301-970-5000. From other parts of MD: 1-800-492-7122. Or write to: House of Delegates, Lowe House Office Building, Annapolis, MD 21401-1991 or The Senate of Maryland, James Senate Office Building, Annapolis, MD 21401-1991.

May Count 2002: Taking a Closer Look at Behavior

by Wanda Cole

Each year, on the second Saturday of May, birders in Maryland turn out in force to scan the tree tops, shorelines, stream bottoms, field edges, and maybe even the feeders and nest boxes in your yard, in an effort to capture "a snapshot" of what birds are where, and in what numbers they occur during the same 24-hour period of time. This effort is important, for it augments the efforts of many other birders across North America- and in some areas of South America- who are expending the same effort. The cumulative count results can then be mapped or graphed, and the resultant images of the day's results will show where these species have dispersed by this phase of their spring migration. It also gives insight as to the sizes of their populations. Knowing the weather conditions is useful because a northward-moving front may have pushed many of these species in waves across the continents, causing them to bunch up in certain areas. Or, perhaps, strong spring storms- such as tornadoes in the Midwest- pushed some species off-course into areas they wouldn't normally use as migration corridors.

Similarly, the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas- which you will read about elsewhere in this newsletter- attempts to achieve the same goal but in greater detail. During the five-year Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas project, birders will make weekly surveys of bird activity in an assigned area called a "block" for a more extended time period. This time period occurs during the breeding "safe dates" of known Maryland breeders. Instead of noting just the species and their numbers, birders will watch the behavior of birds to determine if that species is exhibiting breeding behavior. Breeding behavior can include courtship display, nest building activity, an adult carrying food to a nest, and the appearance of fledglings.

During this year's May Count, participating observers will be asked to take a few extra moments to confirm breeding behavior for those species of birds whose safe dates will be in effect for this year's May Count, Saturday, May 11th. This will include all the expected owls and most of our year-round residents. The owls are often the hardest to confirm during atlasing projects because many birders are not able to get into the field during the summer nocturnal hours of 9 PM to 5 AM. Yet the calls of owls are distinctive and generally easy to identify- and this is a time period when owls will certainly vocalize. May Counters are encouraged to roll out of bed a little earlier or stay out a little later to confirm the nocturnal species. Your county compiler will let you know in which breeding bird atlas blocks your observations were found.

In the next issue of the *Yellowthroat*, you will find a copy of the 2002 May Count Report Form in which the "safe date" species will be noted. Included on the form will be a list of the county compilers. Some are also the breeding bird atlas coordinators for the same county. If you are interested in joining in on this day of adventure and contributing to a worthwhile scientific project, please contact one of those compilers to volunteer your time. Keep in mind, your mileage and food expenses that day are valid volunteer expenses made on the behalf of an MOS-sponsored activity. MOS is a 501-c(3) organization, making your volunteer expenses tax deductible in accordance with IRS guidelines for charitable expenses.

May Count- May 11, 2002- will be a special day in the five-year odyssey of the Breeding Bird Atlas. Will ***you*** play an important role in making it a success? We're *counting* on you! Questions? Contact Wanda Cole, Maryland State May Count Coordinator May Count at

Pacificthunder@hotmail.com

Proposed MOS Bylaws Changes

The following proposed changes will be brought before the membership at the Annual Conference in June 2002 for their consideration. Please see President Karen Morley's column on page 2 for a full explanation of the issues. Underscored words are new language and strikeouts are removals from the existing language.

Signatures Required for MOS Checks

ARTICLE XI. SIGNATURES

Section 1. All notes of the Society shall be signed by both the President and the Treasurer, or in the extended absence of the President, by the Vice President and the Treasurer.

Section 2. Expenses which result from normal operations, such as taxes, rent, insurance, utilities, printing and other items set forth in the yearly MOS fiscal budget as approved by the Board of Directors shall be called budget expenses. Checks drawn on the checking account for budget expenses, as well as other items not included in the annual budget but approved by the Board of Directors, in amounts less than ~~$3000~~ the amount set out in the Manual of Operations may be signed by either the Treasurer or the President.

Section 3. All checks exceeding ~~$3000~~ the amount set out in the Manual of Operations, all checks drawn on the MOS money market/savings account other than as internal transfer of funds to other MOS accounts, and all requests for cash withdrawals from endowment/investment accounts other than as internal transfer of funds to other MOS accounts shall be signed by two Executive Council members.

Proposed Manual of Operations Changes

I. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

I.A Classes of membership, with dues:

I.A.1. Individual: Members shall pay annual dues of $20.00.
I.A.2. Household: Annual dues of $25.00 shall include all members of the household sharing the same address. Only one copy of Society publications shall be sent to a household, but each members shall be entitled to vote at Society membership meetings.
I.A.3. Sustaining: Those members who pay annual dues of $50.00 per person.
I.A.4. Life: Those members who contribute the sum of $1,000.00 in no more than four annual installments in consecutive years. No further dues ~~Hereafter~~ shall be required from these members. Life membership dues shall go to the ~~Sanctuary Endowment Fund. Each year an amount equal to the annual individual dues shall be transferred from the Sanctuary Endowment Fund to the Operating Fund. Balance of interest goes to the Sanctuary Fund.~~ Operating Fund.
(No change to Junior or Honorary memberships.)

Add a new section to the Manual of Operations:

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

VI.A Check Amounts Triggering Additional Signatures
Article XI, Sections 2 & 3 of the MOS Bylaws require that checks of the Society drawn on the MOS checking account have one or more signatures depending on the amount of the check. The amount triggering additional signatures is $10,000.

Martinak State Park Bird Watching Camp

by Ray Bivens

It wasn't the World Series of Birding, but nonetheless it was just as exciting to Jordan, Sarah, Tyler, Steven and Ben. These five had chosen to spend two of their summer vacation days not watching TV or video games but bird watching at Martinak State Park's first annual summer bird watching day camp.

The park started its day camp programs in 2000 offering rock climbing, canoeing, and fishing day camps led by the park naturalists. With those programs becoming so popular, the park was looking for ways to expand its day camp program. In 2001, the park added advanced rock climbing, bass fishing, and bird watching camps. While at first glance bird watching camp might seem quite tame and possibly boring to a ten year old compared to rock climbing and canoeing, this certainly did not prove to be the case.

The purpose of all of the park day camps is to teach young adventurers how to enjoy their natural resources in a safe, and respectful manner. The adventure started with each camper being issued a pair of binoculars for their use during the camp. The binoculars were purchased for the park through an educational grant from MOS. Besides binoculars each camper was given an Peterson Eastern Birds Flash Guide to helpthem identify the avian life encountered during camp.

This camp involved a lot more than just walking the trails and looking for birds. The campers searched for birds of the marsh by canoe and learned about keeping a journal and recording field marks by sketching a Great Horned Owl from our Scales and Tales program, birding from an up close and personal prospective. They also learned how to begin identifying birds by song, bird watching ethics and thoughtful leave-no-trace trail practices, and experiencing through Project Wild games how tough it is for a young owlet to make it to adulthood.

By the end of the camp our list had reached 27 different species with some of the highlights being plentiful ospreys, great blue herons, and a variety of woodpeckers. The quote that best sums up the first ever bird watching camp comes from Sarah Price when on the last day she asked, "How come bird watching camp is only two days?"

Upon completing the camp each camper received a one-year membership to the Caroline County Bird Club, and they were allowed to keep their Peterson Flash Guide. If you're interested in this program or would like any further information about Martinak or Tuckahoe State Parks please don't hesitate to call the Park Naturalist, Ray Bivens.

See a photo of the campers on page 8.

MOS World Series of Birding Team--2002
by Norm Saunders

In case you were wondering, we will be having a World Series team representing MOS again this Spring in Cape May. The makeup of the team is still in question but each Chapter President will receive a mailing about the team, including pledge sheets and all other available information well before the early May date of the World Series. Make plans now to come over to "Joisey" and root for the good guys from Maryland!

Hart-Miller Island Cooperative Funding Agreement Signed
by Gene Scarpulla

On January 28, 2002, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Maryland Port Administration signed a cooperative agreement to fund the $5.4 million Hart-Miller Island South Cell Environmental Restoration Project. The 300-acre South Cell will be converted to approximately 200 acres of mudflats for migrating shorebirds; a 1-acre shell-covered island for nesting terns surrounded by a 5-acre pond; a 15-acre tidal pond for the water supply; and 80 acres of upland habitat. Water levels of the mudflats will be lowered when the shorebirds are migrating through and raised for wintering waterfowl. A pumping system will be constructed to manage the water levels. Additionally, a public walking and observation trail is proposed. The South Cell will eventually become part of Hart-Miller Island State Park.

The final Plans and Specifications are expected to be finished in March 2002 and construction is expected to begin summer 2002. It is anticipated that construction will take from one to three years to complete.

Swift Watch in Hampden
by Carol Schreter and Alice Greely-Nelson

Alice Greely-Nelson, Hampden's resident Chimney Swift expert, has been watching the Free State Bookbinders chimney, 3110 Elm Avenue, since 1985. Alice reports that for about 4 weeks each spring at dusk, 3,000 to 5,000 Chimney Swifts descend into the Bookbindery chimney to roost during their northward migration. Also, each fall for about 6 weeks, traveling with young of the year, even more birds roost there *enroute* south. Last year they started using another large chimney nearby at the Mill Center, and at times they use the two chimneys simultaneously.

"I'm enchanted by this group activity," says Alice. "It's a family affair. It's warm and comforting to watch this amazing display as they gather and circle, and then descend so fast."

Alice was assisted by Baltimore Bird Club (BBC) members in her counts this past fall, when she collected data for the organizers of A Swift Night Out, based in Texas, and Dana Bradshaw's SwiftWatch, based in Virginia. Alice and BBC hope to survey migrating Chimney Swifts more widely next year, and send results to both projects.

The circle of Chimney Swift watchers is growing. SwiftWatch, sponsored by the Center for Conservation Biology, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA (dsbrad@wm.edu or www.swiftwatch.org) wants weekly summaries. A Swift Night Out, sponsored by Driftwood Wildlife Association in Texas, wants numbers once a season, for a specific date (view 2001 results at www.concentric.net/~Dwa). Do you know of other chimneys used by migrating Chimney Swifts? Are you willing to help count Swifts next year? If so, contact Carol Schreter (410) 664-5151 or CSchreter@aol.com. Don't forget to check your *Yellowthroat* listings for BBC's swift-watching trips!

2001 Turkey Point Hawkwatch—A Wrapup
by Dave Kimball

The holidays are over. No more presents to wrap, trees to trim, candles to light, for another year. Now is the time to put all that peace and good will stuff on the back burner and consider matters of greater importance, like birding! Specifically, the results of last fall's Turkey Point Hawk Watch.

Hawk Watch season lasts a long time, thus giving the dedicated counter of migrating raptors the chance to experience a wide variety of weather. Early in September we fried in the mid-day sun; come November we were shivering and turning up our collars against the cold and wind. The flights vary too - we had everything from a 328-hawk spectacular to a rainy day where a lone Cooper's Hawk, straggling back northwards, gave us a daily total of -1.

This year we spent 295 joyous hours out there, up 12.5% from last year. Despite fears that our increased coverage late in the season would decrease our aggregate "hawks per hour", we were up slightly from 17 hawks per hour last year to 17.7 this year and we tallied a total of over 5,200 raptors this season.

As in years past, Sharp-Shinned Hawks were by far our most numerous species, this year accounting for nearly 46% of the birds counted. Cooper's were down slightly, while Red-Tails were up. The Red-Shouldered Hawks get the award for consistency – 328 made the trip this year as opposed to 334 last year, a change of only 1.8%.

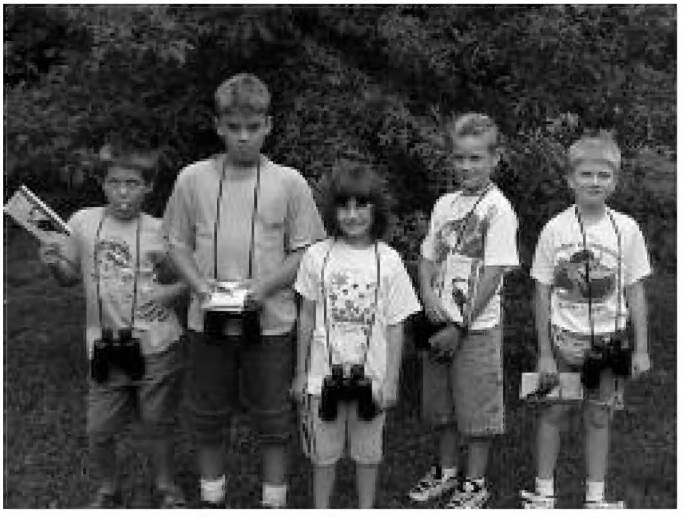
Among the less numerous passers-by, both Northern Harriers and Black Vultures were up sharply from last year, with the Harriers more than doubling and the BVs nearly tripling their count. On the rarest end of the scale, a lucky few were witness to the odd Golden Eagle or Northern Goshawk, as four each of these magnificent birds were seen at Turkey Point this fall.

Of particular interest was the big rise in falcons. The numbers of American Kestrels, Merlins, and Peregrines were all slightly more than double last year's totals.

Also of note is a significantly lower number of migrating Turkey Vultures reported. This is quite possibly the result of a new wrinkle in our reporting procedure. For the first time this year we attempted to separate migrating Turkey Vultures and Bald Eagles from those who were residents of Turkey Point. Perhaps many resident TVs who in the past might have been added to the count were filtered out this year. Or perhaps not--the number of Bald Eagles remained about the same.

All in all, it was a successful and enjoyable season out at the Turkey Point Hawk Watch. Special thanks go to Leslie Fisher, who co-ordinated our volunteer hawk watchers, and of course to all those dedicated raptor-lovers who gave up their free time to go sit in the middle of a field and stare at the sky. Here's looking forward to next year!

Martinak State Park Bird Campers



From left to right: Ben Sturmer, Steven Mathis, Sarah Price, Jordan Kellermeyer, Tyler Washburn

See article on page 7

THIS SPRING … HEAD NORTH TO ALASKA …

Phil and Barbara Davis of Davidsonville, MD will be co-leading two exciting trips to the unique Native American village of **Gambell, Alaska**, in search of Asian vagrants and western Alaska specialties. Gambell is situated on Saint Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea, only 35 miles off the coast of Siberia.

Dates for this year's trips are:

Trip #1: **May 23 – 31, 2002** (almost full)
Trip #2: **May 31 – June 7, 2002**

Last year's trips produced the following sought-after species: Yellow-billed Loon, Emperor Goose, all four eiders (Common, King, Spectacled, Steller's), Pacific Golden-Plover, Mongolian Plover, Wood Sandpiper, Terek Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Red-necked Stint, Long-toed Stint, all three jaegers, Slaty-backed Gull, Ross's Gull, Ivory Gull, Dovekie, both murres (Common, Thick-billed), both guillemots (Black, Pigeon), three auklets (Parakeet, Least, Crested), two puffins (Tufted, Horned), Bluethroat, Northern Wheatear, White Wagtail, McKay's Bunting, Brambling, both redpolls (Common, Hoary), and Eurasian Bullfinch.

Other targets include: Bean Goose, Arctic Loon, Smew, Common Ringed Plover, Eurasian Dotterel, Common Greenshank, Common Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper, Black-tailed Godwit, Great Knot, Little Stint, Temminck's Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Common and Oriental Cuckoo, Siberian Rubythroat, Dusky Thrush, Gray and Black-backed Wagtail, pipits (Olive-backed, Pechora, Red-throated), various Old World buntings, Common Rosefinch, Hawfinch, and many more.

A detailed photo essay from our trip last year to Western Alaska, that includes Gambell and other locations, can be found on the Surfbirds web site at:

http://www.surfbirds.com/Features/pdalaska01-1.html

For more information, including prices, visit the Gambell, Alaska link on the **High Lonesome EcoTours** web site or e-mail them:

web: http://www.hilonesome.com/
e-mail: hilone@hilonesome.com

Just curious for more information? E-mail or call us personally and we'll forward you a copy of our "Top Ten Reasons" to join us this year in Gambell.

Phil and Barbara Davis
pdavis@ix.netcom.com
301-261-0184

advertisement

Minutes of the MOS Board Meeting
September 8, 2001

President: Karen Morley
Vice President: Paul Zucker
Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Secretary: Janet Shields
Executive Secretary: Larry Fry

Atlas: Jane Coskren
Conference: Mike Callahan
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Long-Range Planning: Marcia Watson-Whitmyre
Publications: Chan Robbins
Sanctuary: Dotty Mumford
Sanctuary Project: Bob Rineer
Scholarship: Jean Fry

Allegany: Barbara Gaffney
Anne Arundel: Janelle Dietrich, Stephen Hult, Dotty Mumford
Baltimore: Jeanne Bowman, Helene Gardel, Bob Rineer
Caroline: not represented
Carroll: Dave Harvey, Maureen Harvey
Cecil: not represented
Frederick: Doug Parker, Nancy Parker, Mike Welch
Harford: Thomas Congersky, Jean Fry, Joe Vangrin
Howard: Mary-Jo Betts, Mike Callahan, Jane Coskren, Paula Ecker, Don Waugh, Martha Waugh
Kent: Gail Regester
Montgomery: Janet Millenson, Lydia Schindler, Rick Sussman
Patuxent: Fred Fallon, Tom Loomis, Chan Robbins
Talbot: not represented
Tri-County: not represented
Washington: Judy Lilga, Ann Mitchell

President Karen Morley called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Paul Zucker asked Jane Coskren, Chairman of the Atlas Committee, to clarify her announcement at the June meeting regarding the Howard County Chapter challenge grant to the state for the next five years. Paul asked if the $1,000 matching donation to the Atlas fund was to be for each of the five years or just once during the five years. Jane stated that the $1,000 matching donation was for each of the five years.

Treasurer's Report: Shiras Guion told us the Audit has been completed and approved by the auditors. The auditors suggested a couple of minor changes. One was that the software Shiras is using should be changed to make it easier for Shiras. She will be looking into this.

President's Remarks: President Morley thanked Mike Callahan and the Conference Committee for hosting the meeting. As this was the first board meeting of the New Year, Karen introduced and welcomed the new Chapter Presidents and Directors. Shiras Guion was commended for all the work involved in getting information to the auditors. Shiras was so well organized that she was able to get a large amount of information and paperwork quickly to the auditors. As a result, she probably saved us quite a bit of money.

Karen announced that Dave Brinker has resigned as Chairman of the Research Committee. Dave mentioned that his work at DNR and his family are taking more of his time leaving him unable to devote the necessary time to the Research Committee. Gwen Brewer has agreed to become the new Research Committee Chairman.

Regarding the MOS privacy policy and what should appear on our websites, Norm Saunders compiled the present MOS Society's Membership Privacy Policies and gave the background for these decisions in a handout. Accordingly, at present each Chapter is asked to determine whether or not its members have objections to details of their field trip leader contact information or other personal information such as telephone numbers being placed on various MOS or chapter websites. For security reasons some members might not want this information appearing on websites. This is something that needs to be discussed in detail at another meeting.

One of the major issues facing MOS is trying to increase membership. Because of concern about declining MOS membership, Karen has asked Paul Zucker to do a membership study, looking into ways to help improve this situation. Paul stated he feels it is very important for the MOS Board to work with the Chapters to help them to increase their membership and help the Chapters with their problems and goals.

Karen also mentioned there has been discussion on the *MDOsprey* listserv regarding a standard for FRS radios and the ethics of birding in a large group and using the radios. Karen has asked Gail Mackiernan to look into the issues relating to the use of FRS radios and report back to the Board. Any MOS members with thoughts on the subject should make them known to Gail.

Action Items: Paul Zucker announced the following are still pending:

1. Long-range goals are still needed from committees.
2. Addresses of local newspapers are still needed by Fran Saunders.
3. Chapters need to continue to discuss raising dues with their membership.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Confirmation of Committee Chairmen: Karen Morley, as MOS President, announced and confirmed the Committee Chairmen for the New Year.

Atlas Committee: Jane Coskren announced the Atlas was not funded under CARA funds. All the County Coordinators' positions are filled. There are two more training sessions for the County Coordinators. One meeting will be September 22 and the other November 10. Marcia Balestri has agreed to do publicity for the Atlas.

Budget: Paul Zucker – Paul noted that, if we keep to the current rate of expense, *Maryland Birdlife* will cost us $1,100 for the next issue and the *Yellowthroat* will cost $2,400.

Conference: Mike Callahan reported that the Conference in Salisbury was well attended with 266 people participating. The Auction and Silent Auction were very successful, raising $2,490. Mike had the first Conference Committee meeting on October 20 at Wisp for Conference 2002. David Sibley has been confirmed as the Conference speaker.

Conservation: Maureen reported that the hoped-for Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) has not yet been passed by Congress. Maureen's detailed report on the progress of CARA was to be published in the November/December issue of *Yellowthroat*.

Long-Range Planning Committee: Marcia Watson-Whitmyre was unable to attend. Karen Morley stated that Marcia still is waiting for long-term plans from Committee Chairmen.

Publication: Norm Saunders was unable to attend and asked Karen Morley to discuss the mailing out of the *Yellowthroat* to MOS members. A decision was needed at this Board Meeting as to whether or not to have Tri-State Printing label and mail out the next issue of the *Yellowthroat* or have someone else do this. The Board approved continuing to have the printer apply labels to the *Yellowthroat* and mail it to members.

Publicity: Fran Saunders was unable to attend. Karen Morley reported that we now have MOS business cards to be handed out to Chapter Presidents and distributed by the Presidents to their Chapter members. The front of the card has our organization's name along with our 800-telephone number and email address. The reverse side says: "We and other birders who visit your area to observe birds and other wildlife will continue to support your community's businesses. Please help us to protect and preserve open spaces for birds and other wildlife."

The Publicity Committee is just about out of the MOS brochures to be used for publicity and outreach. Larry Fry got an estimate for printing them: $383 for 1,000 brochures and $574 for 5,000 brochures. Larry felt 1,000 would be enough to reprint. Some members felt that since we are worried about obtaining new members we should not be scrimping on printing an MOS outreach brochure. It would not be difficult to upgrade and stylize the brochure. Karen Morley pointed out we need brochures right away. Changing their design is something to think about for the future. Jane Coskren moved that we spend $383 to have 1,000 of the current MOS brochures printed in order or replenish our supply. This was seconded and approved.

Sanctuary Committee: Dotty Mumford reported that there would be a work day at Irish Grove on October 27. Strategic planning is going on and progress is being made.

There have been two offers of land to MOS. One is in Frederick County. Doug Parker has investigated this parcel. Using the MOS Land Evaluation Criteria and the MOS Land Acquisition Policy, Doug and other Frederick Chapter members determined that this land would not be of benefit to our MOS Sanctuary Program. The other piece of property is in Baltimore County. Brent Byers along with other Baltimore members is looking into the pros and cons of acquiring this property.

Karen Morley extended a thank you to Fred Fallon and his team on the Maryland Partners in Flight Habitat Management Committee for their report entitled "Sanctuary Habitat Survey and Management Recommendations" pertaining to

(continued at top of next page)

MOS Board Meeting Minutes

(continued from previous page)

MOS sanctuaries. Dotty Mumford and the members of the Sanctuary Committee are in the process of reviewing the report.

Sanctuary Project: Bob Rineer reported that the professional real estate assessment of our sanctuaries was $1.4 million. There is a problem at Carey Run: a survey needs to be done to clarify the boundaries of three disputed areas. Bob estimates a survey will cost $6,000 to $8,000. He felt it was important to have the boundary problem cleared up expeditiously and not have to wait for the December Board Meeting to receive approval once the actual cost was known. Larry Fry moved that we have Bob Rineer proceed with having Carey Run surveyed. This was amended to having Bob Rineer proceed with the Carey Run survey subject to Executive Board approval of the cost. This was seconded and approved.

Bob has checked into having signs made for our sanctuaries that can be used in conjunction with our current yellow sanctuary signs. Currently private individuals, as well as MOS, may use the yellow signs to designate a sanctuary area with no hunting. Bob was asked by the Sanctuary Committee to look into obtaining signs to be used at MOS sanctuaries with our organization's name, 800-telephone number and website address. This would reduce the confusion of our property with privately held land using the sanctuary yellow signs. 4" x 10" aluminum signs, white with blue print, would cost $7.50 each when ordering 1,000 signs. Bob had several suggestions as to the wording that should appear on the sign. This is something to think about and discuss at the next Board Meeting.

Scholarship: Jean Fry and the Scholarship Committee are now accepting applications from Maryland teachers, park rangers, and youth leaders for scholarships to attend summer ecology and ornithology workshops held by the National Audubon Society. Applications are due by January 31, 2002. Last year twelve scholarships were awarded.

John Wortman, a Harford Club member since 1969, passed away in March. His wife, Lorna, called Jean Fry and wanted to establish an MOS scholarship in memory of John. For tax purposes Lorna will be forwarding a check in excess of $7,000 before December 31, 2001. Another check will be sent for a similar amount early in 2002. The Harford County Bird Club has also established a memorial fund In Mr. Wortman's name that has in excess of $1,000. Lorna Wortman asked that Bird Club money should also go into the scholarship fund and the Club agreed. The total of the scholarship should be in the range of $16,000 to $17,000. The first scholarship in Mr. Wortman's name will be awarded in the spring of 2003.

OLD BUSINESS

Membership: Karen Morley updated the Board on the financial condition of MOS. She explained that our estimated income for 2001-2002 is $23,500 while the expenses are in excess of $31,000. There are a number of reasons for this. This year all of the interest from the Schenkel bequest has been allocated to the Atlas project. Publication costs of the *Yellowthroat* and *Birdlife* have gone up. We have been including more information in the *Yellowthroat*, which increases the number of pages. *Yellowthroat* is a major way for MOS to keep in communication with the members. For a lot of people it is the only connection with MOS. Therefore, it is difficult to limit the number of pages to be published. Another item of concern is that currently MOS carries a $1 million general liability policy that Karen feels is inadequate for this organization. We need to look into our insurance costs for the future. MOS has done its very best to contain costs. But, we have not spent the money we have needed to spend on certain projects for a very long time. The sanctuaries are an example of this with having to spend money on appraisals and now on a survey at Carey Run. We've done the best we can to stay within reasonable amounts for the things we have had done in the past and still keep the costs down. MOS has to decide what kind of organization it wants to be and if it is willing to pay the cost necessary to maintain or even improve the organization. Unfortunately, we need to raise dues to continue. Our six endowed funds are committed to support MOS's fundamental missions. We will be able to cover the nearly $8,000 deficit for this year by taking money from our savings and general operating funds but we cannot continue to do so and meet our fiscal responsibilities. If one takes this year's deficit and divides it by the total number of MOS members (1,500), to break even this year a $5 increase would have been needed. Karen proposed that we increase the dues by $10 in each category for 2003.

Various suggestions were made for lowering the cost of publishing the *Yellowthroat*. Distribution of the *Yellowthroat* via email was mentioned. This possibility will be explored. Also, there were concerns from the Chapters who are dealing with increases in their own expenses and the possibility of having to increase their Chapter dues. An example is the Baltimore Chapter's cost to maintain the Cylburn Bird Museum, which is becoming difficult for them to deal with. In the future MOS may have to pick up these expenses if the museum is to be continued. Most Chapters, along with MOS, will probably also have to increase their dues if they have not already done so. We don't want the cost of MOS dues to prohibit membership. Karen provided a handout showing dues for comparable organizations. Our dues are considerably lower then those listed and even with a $10 increase would leave room for additional Chapter increases.

Presently MOS has 942 single memberships, 51 family memberships, 33 sustaining, 56 life, and 3 honorary. Discussion of the life memberships determined they pay a lump sum of $400 and receive all MOS publications. The cost of the publications, of course, is one of the factors in requesting an increase in dues. MOS is essentially losing money on most of the life memberships. Stephen Hult moved that we eliminate the life membership category and to grandfather current Life Members. This was seconded and approved. Karen Morley noted that as a practical matter this change could not go into effect until 2003. It will in any event need to be approved by a two-thirds vote of the membership at the annual business meeting in June, 2002.

Karen would like the Chapter Presidents to take the information regarding dues back to their members. There will be further information published in the *Yellowthroat* so that members may make an informed decision at the time it is brought up within each Chapter. Karen would like the membership dues increased as follows: $20 for Individual, $25 for Family, $35 for Sustaining, and Junior memberships would remain the same. A vote on raising dues will be taken at the December Board Meeting. If approved, MOS by-laws require that it then be approved by two-thirds of the membership at the annual business meeting held during our June 2002 Conference and to go into effect in 2003.

NEW BUSINESS

Signature Requirements for MOS Checks: Currently, Karen Morley informed the Board that any check over $3,000 requires the signature of both the President and the Treasurer. With our liability insurance in effect, this is not an efficient way to run a business. There could be times the President is away and the Treasurer will need to write a check. Karen wanted the Chapters to think about this in preparation for discussion at the December Board Meeting. If this is changed, it will require a change to the By-Laws.

NEW ACTION ITEMS

1. Continuation of getting long-range goals of committees to Marcia Watson-Whitmyre.
2. Feedback to Gail Mackiernan on issues relating to the FRS radios.
3. Suggestions for changes to the MOS Brochure to be given to Norm and Fran Saunders.
4. Feedback to Bob Rineer on Sanctuary signs.
5. Send Larry Fry the names and contact information on new Chapter Treasurers and Board Members.
6. Annual Reports are due now from Chapter Presidents and from Committee Chairs.

President Karen Morley adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Shields, Secretary

MOS ACTIVITIES & FIELD TRIPS -- MAR/APR 2002

Saturday, March 2

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Diverse habitats include a stream, a pond, woods and fields. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the "Willow Grove Farm" Information Kiosk in the park off Cromwell Bridge Road 1.5 miles north of I-695 Beltway exit 29A. For further information, contact the leader, Keith Eric Costley, at 521-5366 or oriolekec1@aol.com.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. An owling trip beginning at 3:00 p.m. Place of departure and sites to be determined by the leaders. Call either Bob Keedy, 301-733-7708, or Dave Weesner, 301-432-7718.

Sunday, March 3

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Loch Raven. Waterfowl and land birds; Bald Eagle, Bluebirds possible. Telescopes useful. Two-mile level walk. Beginners welcome. For further information, contact the leader, Debbie Terry, at 410-252-8771 or gt5s@erols.com.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park. Moderate walking around the lake on a paved path. Meet at the west end parking lot 8:00 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Mike Kerwin, at 410 461 2408.

Tuesday, March 5

MEETING. Baltimore. "Rescue of Penguins from the Oil Spill in South Africa" by Steve Sarro, curator of birds at the Baltimore Zoo. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion. The Mansion is located off Greenspring Avenue one block south of Northern Parkway (accessible from I-83 Northern Parkway exit south of the Beltway) in Baltimore.

Wednesday, March 6

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Ft. McHenry. Our monthly visit to assist Jim Peters in the National Aquarium's project of surveying bird activity around a 10-acre man-made (mitigated) wetland. Folding chair and telescope useful. Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain). Meet 9:30 a.m. at Fort McHenry. From the entrance, the wetlands are to the right. Meet just past the statue of Orpheus. Coordinators Gail Frantz 410-833-7135, guineabird@aol.com, and Catherine Bishop, 410-435-9569.

MEETING. Carroll. "Land Bird Survey of Aberdeen Proving Grounds" by Jim McCann. Meet 7:30 p.m. at the main campus of Carroll Community College on Rt. 32, Westminster. For more information, call Laura Tarbell at 410-857-1109.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Timberdoodle Watch. This is the first of a series three early evening trips to witness the mating rituals of the American Woodcock. Relatively warm, windless days in March are best. Meet Debbie Bowers at the east end of the Aberdeen Wal-Mart parking lot at 6 p.m. Call Debbie for further details at 410-692-9741.

Thursday, March 7

MEETING. Anne Arundel. Richard E. Heise. Jr. Annual Wildlife Program. Program TDA. 8:00 p.m. in the Blue Heron Room at Quiet Waters Park, Annapolis.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Owings Mills Woodcock Watch. Take a "balcony seat" overlooking the wetland area for the display flight of the Woodcock. Meet at 5:30 p.m. Park at Macy's; meet on foot at Exxon station. For further information, contact the leader, Keith Eric Costley, at 410-521-5366 or oriolekec1@aol.com.

MEETING. Frederick. Jane Coskren will discuss the Maryland Breeding Bird Survey that begins in 2002. Meet in the Frederick High School Music Room at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 9

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Cecil Waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the North East Plaza Acme Parking Lot. For further information contact the leader, Leslie Fisher, at 410-658-2427.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Lily Pons with Mike Welch. Meet at Lily Pons at 7:30 a.m. We'll look for interesting sparrows and hot line birds. Call Mike at 301-874-5828 for further information.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Jug Bay. (Joint with ANS). Possible Rusty Blackbird, migrating Common Snipe and courtship display of Osprey. Meet at 8 a.m. Reservations required. Also check ANS newsletters for more information. For further information and driving instructions, contact the leader, John Bjerke, at 301-963-8525.

Sunday, March 10

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Wooten's Landing for Woodcocks. Meet at 4:30 a.m. at the Parole Park & Ride lot located off Harry Truman Parkway. For further information, contact the leader, Kathie Lambert at 410-867-4056.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Nottingham County Park. Join in for a half-day trip to the pine barrens park just 15 minutes north of Conowingo. Pine Warbler, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Pileated Woodpeckers are possible species. Meet at the Conowingo Visitor's Center on Rt. 1 at 7:30 a.m. Call Mark Johnson at 410-692-5978 for details.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park. Moderate walking around the lake on a paved path. Meet at the west end parking lot 8:00 a.m. For further information, call Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk to Oxford and vicinity in quest of first Ospreys and Laughing Gulls of spring. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. For further information, contact the leader, Les Coble, at 410-820-6165 or lescoble@Friend.ly.Net.

Wednesday, March 13

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Timberdoodles, Part II. A brief trip to a nearby spot to witness American Woodcock display flights. Meet up at Wal-Mart in Aberdeen at 6 p.m. Call Joe Vangrin for details at 410-838-5264.

Thursday, March 14

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Owings Mills Woodcock Watch II. The display flight of the Woodcock. Meet at 5:30 p.m. Park at Macy's; meet on foot at Exxon station. For further information, contact the leader, Keith Eric Costley, at 410-521-5366 or oriolekec1@aol.com.

Meeting. Howard. "Where the Heron Finds Its Home" This award-winning Canadian film documents that the presence of this largest and most widely distributed North American heron reflects the health of its wetland home. Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Drive, Columbia. Hospitality session and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/Program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information contact Don Waugh at 410-381-8841.

MEETING. Talbot. "The Second Maryland-DC Breeding Bird Atlas Project" by MOS Atlas Project Representative. Meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Maryland Room (basement) of the SunTrust Bank, Goldsboro and Harrison Streets in Easton.

Saturday, March 16

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Baltimore Zoo for late winter birds and zoo exotics. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Parole Park & Ride lot located off Harry Truman Parkway. Leader TBA.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Middle Creek WMA. Visit this major gathering place for Snow Geese and other waterfowl north of Lancaster PA. There is also an excellent display of mounted birds in its visitor center. Note: Trip may end up going elsewhere if Middle Creek's reservoir is frozen over. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Timonium Park & Ride on Greenspring Drive / Deerco Rd. off Timonium Road just east of I-83. For further information, contact the leader, Steve Sanford, at 410-922-5103 or by e-mail at tanager@bcpl.net.

FIELD TRIP. Caroline. Owl Prowl. Meet at 8 p.m. at Martinak State Park at the Martinak Nature Center. The leader is Ray Bivens, the naturalist at Tuckahoe and Martinak State Parks. For more information, contact Ray at the at 410-820-1668.

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Owling at Hugg-Thomas WMA. Back by popular demand is another chance to see a Barred Owl. Don't forget to bring a flashlight. Meet 8:00 p.m. at the Hugg-Thomas parking lot on Forsythe Road, Sykesville. For more information, call trip leader Mark Hoffman at 410-549-3598.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Harford County Waterfowl. Join David Webb to find local waterfowl in the Harford County area. Meet at 6 a.m. (place TBD). Must preregister by March 9th by calling Dave at 410-939-3537.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Triadelphia Reservoir 101. Confused by where to bird at the dam? Get to know the reservoir hotspots: Greenbridge, Big Branch and Pigtail. Some difficult walking expected. Meet at the main parking lot on the dam at 8:00 a.m. to carpool to various locations. For further information, contact the leader, Jane Coskren, at 410-381-7344.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Owl Prowl at Martinak State Park. Meet at 8:00 p.m. at the Martinak

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State Park Nature Center. The leader is Ray Bivens, Naturalist, Martinak and Tuckahoe State Parks. For further information, contact him at raybivens@hotmail.com.

FIELD TRIP. Tri-County. Deal Island WMA for early spring migrants. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the north parking lot of the Asbury Methodist Church in Salisbury. Leader TBA. For further information, contact Sam Dyke at 410-742-5497.

Sunday, March 17

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park. Moderate walking around the lake on a paved path. Meet at the west end parking lot 8:00 a.m. For further information, call Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Choptank River waterfront in quest of Redhead, Greater and Lesser Scaup (learn how to tell them apart), courting Common Goldeneye and Bufflehead. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. For further information, contact the leader, Shirley Bailey, at 410-943-8925.

Tuesday, March 19

MEETING. Allegany. "The Yellow Book." Bob Ringler will discuss the Field List of the Birds of Maryland, commonly known as "The Yellow Book," an invaluable resource for anyone interested in birding in Maryland. Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Education building on Washington Street, Cumberland.

MEETING. Kent. "Birds of Alaska - Kenai Peninsula, Denali Park, Pribilof Islands" by Jean & Larry Fry. 7:30 p.m. at the Kent County Public Library, Chestertown. For further information, contact Pat Wilson, at 410-778-1005.

Wednesday, March 20

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Timberdoodles Part III. Last trip to find American Woodcock. Meet at the Aberdeen Wal-Mart (east end of lot) at 6 p.m. Call David Webb for details at 410-939-3537.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. First Day of Spring Weekday Walk at Font Hill. Easy walking on paved paths and mown grass. Meet at sign on Font Hill drive at 8:30 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Bonnie Ott, at 410-461-3361.

Thursday, March 21

MEETING. Caroline. "From Kathmandu to Caroline County," a slide presentation by wildlife photographer Mike Price. 7:30 p.m. at the Choptank Electric Cooperative on the corner of Bus 404 & Rt. 328 in Denton.

Saturday, March 23

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary for early shorebirds and late waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Parole Park & Ride lot located off Harry Truman Parkway. For further information, contact the leader, Dotty Mumford, at 410-849-8336.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Baltimore Zoo. In follow-up to our March lecture, Steve Sarro, Curator of Birds, takes us inside Rock Island where the Zoo's 80+ African black-footed penguins nest. See exotic and domestic raptors waterfowl so close you won't need your binoculars. In the zoo lab meet animal ambassadors. Zoo admission is $10. Space is limited to 15 people. Reserve with Nancy Meier, 410-719-9335, or njmeier@erols.com. Meet at 10:00 a.m. inside Zoo's front entrance.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Blackwater NWR & Beyond. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the Big Elk Mall Dunkin Doughnuts Parking Lot Area. For further information contact the leader, Sean McCandless, at 410-392-3407.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Piney Run in Carroll County. We'll be looking for late winter waterfowl and maybe really early spring migrants. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Culler Lake Boathouse in Baker Park. For information contact Marcia Balestri at 301-473-5098.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. A trip to the National Zoo. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Hagerstown Rt. 66 Park & Ride. Call Judy Lilga, 301-432-2276, for further information.

Sunday, March 24

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion. First of a series of casual self-guided spring walks. Meet other birders at the front porch at one place where birds are always easy to find. For further information, call coordinator Joe Lewandowski at 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Harford Glen. Join Les Eastman for an enjoyable walk through the varied habitats at Harford Glen. Meet at Harford Glen at 7:15 a.m. For details call Les at 410-734-6969 or les@birdtreks.com.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park. Moderate walking around the lake on a paved path. Meet at the west end lot at 8:00 a.m. The leaders are Karen Darcy and Kevin Heffernan. For further information, call Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Easton Wastewater Treatment Facility in quest of White-Crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, great looks at many Puddle Duck species, Bald Eagle. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. For further information, contact the leader, Terry Allen, at 410-822-8132.

Monday, March 25

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING. Tri-County. "Veracruz - River of Raptors" by Clay and Pat Sutton. Meet at 6:00 p.m. Wicomico Presbyterian Church in Salisbury. For further information, contact Sam Dyke at 410-742-5497.

Tuesday, March 26

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. First in a series of weekly walks to follow the progress of spring migration. Two or three hours and miles of walking, early departure possible. Some uneven terrain and steep dikes optional at far end. Spring migrant songbirds. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons possible after March. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. Note: possible bridge construction may cause spring walks to be relocated. For further information, contact the leader, Adelaide Rackemann, at 410-823-4709.

MEETING. Washington. A member of the Atlas Committee will give a presentation on the Atlas project. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Mt. Aetna Camp & Retreat Center, close to Rt. 66 and I-70. For further details contact Janet Shields, 301-416-7109.

Saturday, March 30

FIELD TRIP. Caroline. Tuckahoe State Park. Meet at the lake area at 8 a.m. The leader is Ray Bivens, the naturalist at Tuckahoe and Martinak State Parks. For more information, contact Ray at the at 410-820-1668.

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Birding Carroll County Ponds. A trip around the county visiting our local ponds looking for waterfowl. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the gate to Piney Run Park on Martz Road, Sykesville. For more information, call trip leader Bob Ringler at 410-549-6031.

Sunday, March 31

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion. For further information, call coordinator Joe Lewandowski at 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Tilghman Island in quest of Gannets over Chesapeake Bay, Common and Red-throated Loons, Louisiana Waterthrush and the earliest warblers. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the St. Michaels Village Shopping Center next to the Talbot Bank. For further information, contact the leader, Jan Reese, at 410-745-2875.

Tuesday, April 2

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. Note: possible bridge construction may cause spring walks to be relocated. For further information, contact the leader, Chris Manning, at 410-668-8713.

MEETING. Baltimore. " Israel - The Billion Bird Flight" by Gail Mackiernan. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion.

Wednesday, April 3

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Ft. McHenry. Our monthly visit to assist Jim Peters in the National Aquarium's project of surveying bird activity around a 10-acre man-made (mitigated) wetland. Folding chair and telescope useful. Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain). Meet 9:30 a.m. at Fort McHenry. From the entrance, the wetlands are to the right. Meet just past the statue of Orpheus. Coordinators Gail Frantz 410-833-7135, guineabird@aol.com, and Catherine Bishop, 410-435-9569.

MEETING. Carroll. Program TDA. Meet 7:30 p.m. at the main campus of Carroll Community College on Rt. 32, Westminster. For more information, call Laura Tarbell at 410-857-1109.

Thursday, April 4

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Nature Walk. First in a series of 4 walks, each Thursday in April. Look for early migrant birds. Watch spring progress with a remarkable variety of

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wildflowers. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Cylburn Mansion. For further information, contact the leader, Chris Manning, at 410-668-8713.

MEETING. Frederick. Brian Henke will present "Satellite Telemetry and Other Advanced Technologies for Avian Conservation," an overview of the work he and others are doing for various Government agencies and private concerns to track various species by satellite. Meet in the Frederick High School Music Room at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 5

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Identifying Spring Warblers by sight and sound" by Pete Webb. 8:00 p.m. at the DNR Conference Room, Tawes Building, corner of Taylor Avenue and Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis.

Saturday-Sunday, April 6-7

Irish Grove Work-n-Bird Weekend. Join MOS members from throughout the state in spring cleaning the house and grounds at our sanctuary near Crisfield on the lower Eastern Shore. Time-outs for birding the marsh and woods. Sedge Wren possible. Overnight accommodations available. For further information, contact your chapter Sanctuary Chairman or Dotty Mumford at 410-849-8336.

Saturday, April 6

FIELD TRIP. Allegany. Garrett County Ponds. A long-time favorite field trip that often includes the unexpected. If the ice has not melted in Garrett, we'll check Allegany instead. Roy Brown will take the lead. We'll wrap up around noon with a picnic at New Germany State Park. Meet at Parkside in LaVale at 9:00 a.m. Bring scope and lunch.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Beginner's Bird Walk at Bon Secours. Moderate walking through woodland paths and fields. Learn how to identify our resident wintering species and perhaps a few migrants. Meet in visitor's parking lot off Marriottsville Rd at 8:30 a.m. The leaders are Michele Wright and Eva Sunell. For further information call Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Bird-Pedal. Leisurely ride with frequent stops for birding along the beautiful Capital Crescent Trail, from Massachusetts Avenue to the Potomac River in Georgetown. 10 miles round trip on smooth, level surface. Rest and view river species at Washington Canoe Club. Reservations required. For further information, contact the leader, David Winer, at 301-229-8963.

Sunday, April 7

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion. For further information, call coordinator Joe Lewandowski at 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Mt. Harmon Plantation & Grove Neck Sanctuary. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Big Elk Mall Dunkin Doughnuts Parking Lot Area. For further information contact the leader, Parke John, at 410-287-6037 (H) or 410-506-3874 (W).

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Perryville Waterfowl. Check out the Perryville area for local and migratory waterfowl. Scopes helpful. Meet at the I-95/Rt. 155 Park & Ride at 8:00 a.m. Call Les Eastman at 410-734-6969 or les@birdtreks.com for details.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Mount Pleasant for early Spring Arrivals. Moderate/difficult walking through the grounds of the Howard County Conservancy. Extensive fields should host sparrows and meadowlarks. Excellent view of the sky for flyovers. Meet by the shed at 8:00 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Robin Todd, at 410-313-8154.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. C&O Hotspots. Early migrants - some warblers and swallows expected - with the good possibility of lingering and migrant waterfowl. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the parking lot at the canal end of Sycamore Landing Road. For further information, contact the leader, Andy Rabin, at 703-716-2923.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Terrapin Park and elsewhere on Kent Island in quest of early warblers (Black-and-Time White, Palm, Prairie, Yellowthroat), departing waterfowl. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. For further information, contact the leaders, Karen & Bill Harris, at 410-643-1947 or keharris@crosslink.net.

Tuesday, April 9

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. Note: possible bridge construction may cause spring walks to be relocated. For further information, contact the leader, Patsy Perlman, at 410-466-3998.

Thursday, April 11

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Nature Walk. Look for early migrant birds. Watch spring progress with a remarkable variety of wildflowers. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Cylburn Mansion. For further information, contact the leader, Chris Manning, at 410-668-8713.

Meeting. Howard. "Life History of the Purple Martin" by Kathy Klimkiewicz. Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Drive, Columbia. Hospitality session and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/ Program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information contact Don Waugh at 410-381-8841.

MEETING. Montgomery. "Neighborhood Nestwatch: Science in the City" by Peter Marra from the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD.

MEETING. Talbot. "Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Maryland and Beyond" by Richard Kearney, MD-DC Audubon and University of Maryland. Meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Maryland Room (basement) of the SunTrust Bank, Goldsboro and Harrison Streets in Easton.

Friday, April 12

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Weekday Walk at Gwynn Acres for early woodland migrants, woodpeckers and possible Barred Owls. Easy walking on paved path through woodlands. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Rams Horn Row and Old Columbia Pike. For further information, contact the leader, Bonnie Ott, at 410-461-3361.

Saturday, April 13

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Ellicott City. Joint trip with Howard chapter to Howard County hotspots. Meet at 7:15 a.m. at the Parole Park & Ride lot located off Harry Truman Parkway. Space limited. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Paul Speyser, at 410-266-5669.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Fort Smallwood. Bring lawn chairs, lunch, a cooler, and suntan lotion for a day of armchair birding as the hawks fly over. Admission charge to get into the park. Trip will not go if rain threatens or an unfavorable wind is blowing. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Nursery Rd.- Hammonds Ferry Rd. Park & Ride at I-695 Beltway exit 8. For further information, contact the leader, Pete Webb, at 410-486-1217.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Ball's Bluff for wildflowers and early migrants. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Culler Lake Boathouse in Baker Park. For information contact David Smith at 410-549-7082.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Rocks State Park. Walk the wooded trails in search of woodpeckers, wrens and woodcreepers (others also). Meet at the Park Office parking lot (off of Rocks Chrome Hill Rd.) at 7:30 a.m. Call Debbie Bowers for details at 410-692-9741.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Ellicott City Hotspots. Joint trip with AA Bird Club. We will carpool to various areas in central Howard County. Bring footwear suitable for wetland areas. Mix of moderate to difficult walking possible. Meet at the Rt. 100 park & Ride at 8:00 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Bonnie Ott, at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Upper Watts Branch Park, Rockville, MD. Early migrant warblers, kinglets, thrushes as well as holdover White-throated Sparrows and assorted woodland residents and Red-shouldered Hawks. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the corner of Princeton Place and Fordham Street. Limited to 12 people. For reservations and directions, contact the leader, Paul O'Brien, at 301-424-6491.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. A trip to Huntley Meadows and Dykes Marsh. The all day trip will begin at 6:00 a.m. Meet at the Hagerstown Rt. 66 Park & Ride. Contact Janet Shields, 301-416-7109, for further information.

Sunday, April 14

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Cylburn Arboretum. Spring migrants in a varied habitat with Shirley Geddes. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Parole Park & Ride lot located off Harry Truman Parkway.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion. For further information, call coordinator Joe Lewandowski at 410-358-7834

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or ilenel@juno.com.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. University of MD Central Farm. Vesper Sparrow Search. Very rigorous walking through wetlands Limited Trip. To reserve a spot. and get details, call Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Jean Ellen duPont Sheehan Audubon Sanctuary in quest of: Brown-headed Nuthatch, Yellow-throated Warbler, Bonapart's Gull. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the St. Michaels Village Shopping Center next to the Talbot Bank. For further information, contact the leader, Les Roslund, at 410-763-8169 or Lroslund@bluecrab.org.

Tuesday, April 16

MEETING. Allegany. "Conservation of Cultures, Habitats, and Birds in the Santa Marta Region of Colombia." George Jett and Gwen Brewer will present a program featuring slides taken by George during a 2001 trip to the Santa Marta Region of Colombia. Hear a discussion of conservation efforts in this troubled country. Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Education building on Washington Street, Cumberland.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. Note: possible bridge construction may cause spring walks to be relocated. For further information, contact the leader, Matilda Weiss, at 410-337-2732.

Thursday, April 18

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Nature Walk. Look for early migrant birds. Watch spring progress with a remarkable variety of wildflowers. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Cylburn Mansion. For further information, contact the leader, Chris Manning, at 410-668-8713.

MEETING. Caroline. "Landbird Survey at Aberdeen Proving Ground" presented by Jim McCann. 7:30 p.m. at the Choptank Electric Cooperative on the corner of Bus 404 & Rt. 328 in Denton.

Friday, April 19

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING. Kent. Speaker TBA. 6:30 p.m. at Heron Point: Chesapeake Dining Room. For more information, contact Pat Wilson, at 410-778-1005.

Saturday, April 20

FIELD TRIP. Allegany. Wildflowers. Gladys Faherty and Charlotte Folk will lead us on one of their famous wildflower walks. Here's an opportunity to get out with some Spring Beauties (and a lot of other wonderful wildflowers, too) and enjoy some early Spring weather. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Spring Gap on the C&O Canal.

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Pocomoke River Canoe Trip in Prothonotary habitat. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Parole Park & Ride lot located off Harry Truman Parkway. For further information, contact the leader, Larry Zoller, at 410-647-9354.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Huntley Meadows. Trip to northern Virginia freshwater marsh with boardwalk trail for resident King Rails and spring migrants. Coots, Canada Geese on nests, turtles, water snakes and other water wildlife allowing close approach and good views. American Bittern, Sora both possible. Two to three hour (and mile) level walk on paved paths and boardwalks. Meet 7:30 a.m. at Nursery Road - Hammonds Ferry Road Park & Ride at Beltway Exit 8. For further information, contact the leader, Pete Webb, at 410-486-1217 or email pwebb@bcpl.net.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Conowingo Wildflowers & Birds Walk. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Fishermen's Park Parking Lot at Conowingo Dam. For further information contact the leader, Ken Drier, at 410-658-9955.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Wilbur Hershberger will lead us on a trip to Altona Marsh in West Virginia. Last time we had Rusty Blackbirds and Rails. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Culler Lake Boathouse in Baker Park. For information contact Wilbur at 304-754-7517.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Earth Day. Come out to Swan Harbor to join in on the Earth Day Celebration. Many exhibits including intermittent bird walks. Call Carol Flora for details at 410-879-0642.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Butterflies and Wildflowers. Leisurely stroll to view early wildflowers and look for butterflies. Binoculars helpful. From 170 take MD 94 (Woodbine Road.) south: Continue past Florence Road about1.3 miles. Turn left into Starting Gate Court and park at Brighton Court. Meet at 1:30 p.m. For further information, contact the leaders, Dick Smith at 410-997-7439 or Bob Solem at 301-725-5037.

Sunday, April 21

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Fort Smallwood Park. Migrating hawks & variety of other birds. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Severna Park Park & Ride lot located in the NW corner at the intersection of Jones Station Road and Ritchie Highway.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion. For further information, call coordinator Joe Lewandowski at 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Southwest Area Park and the Baltimore Harbor. Birds to look for will include pheasants, swallows and terns. Meet at Southwest Area Park. For further information and directions, contact the leader, Dave Walbeck, at 410-757-0112 or email: dwalbeck@mde.state.md.us.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Jerusalem Mill. Hike the historical area surrounding the mill in search of early warblers, waterthrushes, and other migrants. Meet at the Mill (off Jerusalem Rd.) at 7 a.m. For further information, call Phil Powers at 410-679-4116.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Schooley Mill Park. Moderate walking along field edges and through woodland trails for spring migrants. Meet at the upper parking lot at 7:30 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Daryl Olson, at 301-730-7290.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. "Migrant special" in Talbot County in quest of colorful warblers (Yellow, Black-throated Green, American Redstart); subtle Thrushes (Wood, Swainson's, and Veery), brilliant Finches (Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak), and fiery tanagers (Scarlet, Summer). Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. For further information, contact the leader, Herndon Steilkie, at 410-822-3901.

Monday, April 22

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Earth Day Birding at Lake Elkhorn. Easy walking on the paved path around the lake. Tern, swallows and migrant warblers. Meet at the Lake Elkhorn Cradlerock parking lot at 8:00 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, John Maloney, at 301-317-4961.

Tuesday, April 23

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. Note: possible bridge construction may cause spring walks to be relocated. For further information, contact the leader, Dot Gustafson, at 410-377-4120.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Rock Creek Park, DC. Migrant warblers, vireos and others. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at picnic area 18 (1/2 mile below Nature Center on Ridge Road). For further information and directions, contact the leader, Rob Hilton, at 301 587-6136.

MEETING. Washington. Bob Ringler is giving a program on the Cranes of China. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Mt. Aetna Camp & Retreat Center, close to Rt. 66 and I-70. Contact Janet Shields, 301-416-7109, for more information.

Thursday, April 25

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Nature Walk. Look for early migrant birds. Watch spring progress with a remarkable variety of wildflowers. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Cylburn Mansion. For further information, contact the leader, Chris Manning, at 410-668-8713.

Saturday-Sunday, April 27-28

Carey Run Work-n-Bird weekend Spring cleaning at the house and grounds in Garrett County. Time-outs for birding the woods and fields. Overnight accommodations available. For further information, contact your chapter Sanctuary Chairman or Dotty Mumford at 410-849-8336.

Saturday, April 27

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Marriottsville Warblers. Resident warblers and songbirds on trail along Patapsco River below Liberty Dam. Barred Owl possible. Perhaps the best location in Baltimore County to see Yellow-throated warbler. Meet at 8:00 a.m. For further information and directions, contact the leader, Paul Noell, at 410-243-2652.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Breakfast with the Birds at Cylburn. Co-hosted by Cylburn Arboretum Association. Breakfast at 8 am, costs $2. Birding starts at 8:30 am, no charge. For reservations call 410-367-2217.

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Bird Walk at Soldier's Delight. We're trying a new location for the spring migration. Summer Tanagers have been

MOS ACTIVITIES & FIELD TRIPS -- MAR/APR 2002 (CONT.)

found nesting here. Meet 7:00 a.m. in the parking lot in front of Roy Roger's at the Finksburg Plaza, Rts. 140 & 91 in Finksburg. We'll head to our destination from here. For more information, call trip leader Gail Frantz at 410-833-7135.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Linda Keller and Beth Zang will take us through Cylburn Mansion and Arboretum to look for spring migrants. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Culler Lake Boathouse in Baker Park. For information, contact Linda Keller at 301-834-7312 or Beth Zang at 301-371-7936.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Rock Run. Join local resident Les Eastman for a walk at one of Harford County's best birdwatching spots. Targets include early warblers (Black and White, American Redstart, Yellow-throated, and Northern Parula), orioles, and vireos. Meet at the Mill at 7 a.m. For details call Les at 410-734-6969 or les@birdtreks.com.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. Moderate and difficult walking through a wide variety of habitats. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Board of Ed. Building on Rt. 108 to carpool to Trotter Road. For further information, contact the leader, Stan Arnold, at 410-768-0155.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Southern Maryland - Charles County Loop. Full day. Waterfowl, woodpeckers, sparrows and early migrants. Leader plans to shoot for 100+ total species! Meet at 7 a.m. at Blockbuster Video, corner Rtes. 5 and 301. Limited to 12 people. For further details and reservations, contact the leader, George Jett, at 301-843-3524

Sunday, April 28

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Birding Woodstock. Expect to observe a variety of birds with up to 20 species of warblers. Boots recommended; part of the hiking loop may be muddy. Carry water, snacks or lunch. Those who prefer to bird half a day need not complete the entire loop and will be able to leave early. Meet at 7:30 a.m. where Old Court Road crosses the Patapsco River. Cross the bridge and park just beyond the railroad tracks. For further information and directions, contact the leader, Keith Eric Costley, at 410-521-5366 or oriolekec1@aol.com.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion. For further information, call coordinator Joe Lewandowski at 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Henryton's Yellow-throated Warblers. Moderate walk along the river (2 miles) in search of resident and migrant warblers. Meet at the end of Henryton Road at 7:30 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Ralph Cullison, at 410-442-2181.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Triadelphia Lake Area. Migrants in area of habitat variety; water birds. Meet at 7:00 a.m. Limited to 10 people. For further information, reservations and directions, contact the leader, Rick Sussman, at 301-774-1185.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Walk for seasoned birders to Tuckahoe State Park and Adkins Arboretum, Ridgely, MD. Bring sandwiches for picnic lunch at noon. Talbot Chapter and Arboretum friends will provide drinks and cookies. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton or meet group at 7:30 a.m. at the boat ramp parking lot, Tuckahoe State Park. For further information, contact the leader, Wayne Bell, at 410-820-6002 or wayne.bell@washcoll.edu.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Walk for youngsters and beginners to Adkins Arboretum, Ridgely, MD to see Indigo Bunting, Baltimore and Orchard Oriole, Yellow Warbler, and other colorful species. Bring sandwiches for picnic lunch at noon. Talbot Chapter and Arboretum friends will provide drinks and cookies. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton or meet group at 10:00 a.m. in Adkins Arboretum parking lot. For further information, contact the leader, Dick Kleen, at 410-745-5482.

Tuesday, April 30

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. Note: possible bridge construction may cause spring walks to be relocated. For further information, contact the leader, Debbie Terry, at 410-252-8771 or gt5s@erols.com.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Seneca Creek State Park-Gaithersburg for migrant and nesting birds of woods and water. Moderate walking. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at bridge on Riffle Ford Road (***not at park entrance***). Limited to 8 people. For further information, reservations and directions, contact the leader, Kyle Carstensen, at 301-442-5984 or 202-833-1000.

The copy deadline for the May/Jun issue of the Yellowthroat is March 25 for chapter activities and April 1 for all other submissions.

Send calendar entries for May to August to:

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Please send all other submissions to the editor:

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